

Redouble our efforts

February, at least for me, is one of those months where it takes a lot to get going. It's not yet spring, it's mostly winter, but it's not totally winter. It's not totally spring. It's mostly just mud.

At least around here, in February, there's not enough sunlight to keep me from coming to work in the dark and going home in the dark. It's getting there, of course, and in another few weeks, even my long days will start to see some daylight.

That's why in February, as well as any other time where your life is a bit saggy, it's important for us to redouble our efforts, and push all the stronger.

When you let yourself (or I let myself) be pulled down by the environment surrounding us, we get sidetracked, dragged down – in effect, it's almost as if we were caught in that mud I mentioned above.

I had my first experience getting caught in the mud when I was sixteen. I drove onto the shoulder of a road, not knowing that the shoulder was mostly mud. I slid – and kept sliding – until my dad's Mercury (a hot car, if I say so myself) was stuck. I pulled all the tricks I knew – but to no avail. I was stuck. In the end, a couple of farmers came along the roadway, hooked a chain up to the bumper (this is when bumpers were made of chrome steel), and pulled me and the car up off the shoulder, and back onto the road.

I soon learned that getting stuck in the mud is not a good thing – even more so now, when bumpers are usually made of plastic.

In our daily lives, it's easy to get bogged down. The circumstances surrounding you tend to intrude into your otherwise orderly life. Things happen, meetings increase, problems arise, and pretty soon you find yourself bogged down.

That's the time when we need to redouble our efforts – because when you're bogged down, it takes extra power to pull you out of it.

I've got a quote hanging in my office. It says this: "The way out is always through." Of course, it means that the best way out of your difficulty is to push through it. I'm smart enough to know that sometimes, the best way out is around, but most of the time, the best method to use to get through our difficulties is to redouble our efforts, get ourselves in gear, and just push through the difficulty until we're on the other side.

It's not always the easiest thing to do – but most of the time, it's the best way to proceed. Sitting and staring at our problems is rarely the way to solve them.

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